

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

STEVEN PAYMENT,

Defendant.

8:13CR365

ORDER

This matter is before the Court on defendant Steven Payment's ("Payment") communication to the Court (Filing No. 211) docketed as a pro se Motion for Compassionate Release pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A)(i). That statute authorizes Payment to move the Court to "reduce [his] term of imprisonment" for "extraordinary and compelling reasons" thirty days after asking the warden of the facility where he is incarcerated to file such a motion on his behalf. *See also United States v. Raia*, 954 F.3d 594, 595 (3d Cir. 2020). Payment states he has met that requirement by making such a request to the warden's office of FPC Yankton on July 7, 2020. The warden denied the request.

Upon initial review of Payment's motion, the Court finds he has potentially raised a colorable claim for a sentence reduction under § 3582(c)(1)(A)(i). The Court further finds that appointing counsel to represent Payment will help the Court evaluate his request for relief. Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED:

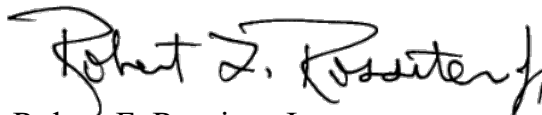
1. The Federal Public Defender for the District of Nebraska is appointed to represent Payment for the limited purpose of determining whether there are extraordinary and compelling reasons to reduce his term of imprisonment.
2. In the event the Federal Public Defender should decline this appointment because of a conflict of interest or on the basis of the Amended Criminal Justice Act Plan, the Federal Public Defender shall provide the Court with a

draft appointment order (CJA Form 20) bearing the name and other identifying information of the CJA Panel attorney identified in accordance with the Amended Criminal Justice Act Plan for this district.

3. If, upon review, appointed counsel concludes the motion is frivolous, they may move to withdraw as counsel.
4. The U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office is directed to investigate Payment's request for sentencing relief and promptly file under seal a report summarizing the results of that investigation.
5. If necessary, the probation office is authorized to disclose Presentence Investigation Reports to the Federal Public Defender and the United States Attorney for the purpose of evaluating the motion. The Federal Public Defender shall provide the Presentence Investigation Report to any subsequently appointed or retained counsel. In accordance with the policy of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, no Presentence Investigation Report shall be provided to inmates.
6. The government and Payment's counsel shall each file within ten days of the probation office filing its investigation report a brief addressing Payment's request for sentencing relief and provide any evidence necessary to the Court's disposition of his motion. In particular, the parties should address whether § 3582(c)(1)(A)(i) authorizes the Court to reduce a sentence below a statutory mandatory-minimum sentence. *See, e.g., United States v. Burnett*, No. 8:17CR374, 2020 WL 5038777, at *2 (D. Neb. Aug. 26, 2020) (citing *United States v. Watts*, 553 F.3d 603, 604 (8th Cir. 2009) (per curiam) ("District courts lack the authority to reduce sentences below congressionally-mandated statutory minimums.")). Absent an extension or other request from the parties, the motion shall be deemed fully briefed and submitted as of that date.

Dated this 14th day of December 2020.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert F. Rossiter Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert F. Rossiter, Jr.
United States District Judge